

S15E

NGUZ a Karl-i-Bond
(Phonetic: enGOOZ)

ZAIRE

(b) (1)
(b) (3)
(b) (6)

*State Commissioner for Foreign Affairs
(since March 1988)*

A distinguished statesman, Nguz a Karl-i-Bond is serving his fourth term as Foreign Minister; he has also been Prime Minister. His longstanding presidential ambitions have led to a rocky relationship with President Mobutu Sese Seko over the years: Nguz was once sentenced to death for treason; in subsequent exile he became an outspoken anti-Mobutu leader. The two men publicly reconciled in 1985, but their relationship, in our view, is still more one of convenience than of trust: Mobutu is able to monitor Nguz closely and to draw upon his exceptional skills, while Nguz—back in Zaire after a successful two-year tour (1986-88) as Ambassador to the United States—has the opportunity to reestablish himself on the domestic political scene. In the past his support crossed ethnic and regional boundaries, but the current depth of his popularity remains unknown.



APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAY 2006

Strongly pro-West, Nguz is probably Zaire's best student of American political affairs. He brings a less parochial view to the Cabinet than do most of Mobutu's other advisers.

Career

Nguz was born on 4 August 1938 in Musumba in Katanga (now Shaba) Region in southeastern Zaire. He has a master's degree in international relations from the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium. He has taught at the National University of Zaire. Nguz has extensive experience at the UN: he served as a member of his country's Permanent Mission in New York and as Permanent Representative to the UN European Office in Geneva during the 1960s and early 1970s, and he has attended many UN meetings since then. He previously held the Foreign Affairs portfolio during 1972-74, 1976-77, and 1979-80. During the 1970s he also held high-level positions in Mobutu's political party. He first ran afoul of Mobutu in 1977, when he was convicted of treason for allegedly concealing information about the invasion of Shaba earlier that year. His death sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment because of international pressure, and he was eventually pardoned after he had spent almost a year in prison. Nguz served as Prime Minister from August 1980 until April 1981, when differences with Mobutu forced him to flee.

Even after Nguz made peace with Mobutu, the President kept him at a distance, naming him Ambassador to the United States. His success in improving Zaire's public image during his Washington tour probably convinced Mobutu to restore him to the

(cont.)
LDA M 89-12830

[redacted]

Cabinet. Nguz has never recanted his anti-Mobutu views but asserts instead that the President's progress in redressing human rights and economic abuses is worthy of his support. [redacted]

Personal Data

An eloquent and engaging political animal, Nguz has an instinctive affinity for other politicians. [redacted] He has known most world leaders since the early 1960s, when he was a protege of his late uncle, Prime Minister (1964-65) Moise Tshombe. Nguz lives in a modest home in Kinshasa and owns a farm near Lubumbashi, where he sometimes entertains visiting dignitaries. [redacted]

[redacted] Both he and his wife, Ntandu Kaviro, speak English and French. His wife is the daughter of a major Bakongo clan chief in the eastern, economically important Bas-Zaïre Region, and she may bring Nguz some political support there. He has eight children—some are from a previous marriage. [redacted]

30 May 1989